

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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September 28, 2012

Lauren Lynch Flick, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
2300 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Re: KOTA(AM), Rapid City, South Dakota
Facility Identification Number: 17678
Duhamel Broadcasting Enterprises
Special Temporary Authorization

Dear Counsel:

This is in reference to the request filed August 24, 2012,¹ on behalf of Duhamel Broadcasting Enterprises ("DBE"). DBE requests special temporary authority ("STA") to operate Station KOTA during nighttime hours with its daytime nondirectional antenna and power reduced to 25% of the licensed value.² In support of the request, DBE states that a damaged component prevents nighttime directional operation, and that the damaged part has been sent out for repair.

Section 73.1680 of the Commission's rules provides for operation with emergency antenna facilities following damage to authorized antenna systems, provided that an informal request for continued use of an emergency antenna is filed with the Commission within 24 hours. In particular, Section 73.1680(b)(1) provides that AM stations using an emergency nondirectional antenna in lieu of authorized directional facilities shall operate with power reduced to 25 percent or less of the nominal licensed power, or a higher power, not exceeding licensed power, while insuring that the radiated field strength does not exceed that authorized in any given azimuth.

Accordingly, the request for STA IS HEREBY GRANTED. Station KOTA may operate during nighttime hours with an emergency nondirectional antenna and reduced power not to exceed 1.25 kilowatts. It will be necessary to further reduce power or cease operation if complaints of interference are received. DBE must use whatever means are necessary to protect workers and the public from exposure to radio frequency radiation in excess of the Commission's exposure guidelines. *See* 47 CFR § 1.1310.

This authority expires on **December 28, 2012**.

STA Advisory: Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the

¹ Processing of the request was delayed by a fee payment issue which now has been resolved.

² KOTA is licensed for operation on 1380 kHz with 5 kilowatts, unlimited hours, employing a directional antenna during nighttime hours only (DA-N-U).

Commission to grant STA in cases of "extraordinary circumstances requiring temporary authorizations in the public interest and when delay in the institution of the temporary operations would seriously prejudice the public interest." However, Section 309(f) is not a means by which a licensee/permittee may circumvent established processing procedures which require the filing of an application, nor is it a means by which a broadcaster may enhance his facility or make operation more convenient for the broadcaster. Stations operating with less than licensed facilities under temporary authorities can be viewed as receiving the benefit of a larger protection area than that in which they are currently providing service.

Accordingly, Special Temporary Authorities by nature are to be temporary and are not intended for extended use. Licensees of stations operating under temporary authorities are reminded that timely restoration of permanent facilities is the responsibility of the licensee and should be undertaken expeditiously. Any request for extension of special temporary authorities carries an increased burden with each subsequent request.

Therefore, requests for extension of STA will be granted only where the licensee can show that one or more of the following criteria have been met:

- Restoration of licensed facilities is complete and testing is underway;
- Substantial progress has been made during the most recent STA period toward restoration of licensed operation; or
- No progress has been made during the most recent STA period for reasons clearly beyond the licensee's control, and the licensee has taken all possible steps to expeditiously resolve the problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles N. Miller".

Charles N. Miller, Engineer
Audio Division
Media Bureau

cc: Duhamel Broadcasting Enterprises